

MOBILE COUNTY

Honorable Pamela K. Millsaps

Mobile County Courthouse
2315 Costarides St.
Mobile, AL 36617
(251) 574-8470

David Benefield
Sam Brown
Richard Cashdollar
Sam Cochran
Luke Coley
Spencer Collier
Mike Dean
Bert Eichold
Virginia Guy

Pat Guyton
Jamie Ison
Howard Kaplan
Rose Johnson
Doris Lucy
Wendy McEarchern
Tanya Nelson
E.T. Rolison, Jr.
Tuerk Schlesinger

Turner Sims
Jack Tillman
Bobbi Jo Trammel
John Tyson, Jr.
Tyrone Walker
Rhonda Waltman
Chaplain Terry Wigley
Barbara Williams
Mary Zoghby



Executive Director: Cynthia Weaver

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Friends who engage in problem behaviors
2. Family management problems
3. Reduce barriers to the screening and referral for treatment of children and youth with mental health, mental retardation, or behavioral disorders to avoid unnecessary and expensive incarceration or other inappropriate placements.

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

Health - Children's (0 - 19)

physical and mental well-being in the county.

Underage drinking

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Service providers maintain, strengthen, and expand after-school programming using evidence based life skills models identified in the Mobile "Communities that Care" 2005-2010 Action Plan
- Service providers maintain, strengthen, and expand mentoring programming to reduce this risk
- Continue to work with the nonpublic schools participating in the Mobile CTC process to establish evidence-based life skills programming with the CTC priority population of 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in school – based settings.

Barriers to the screening and referral for treatment of children and youth with mental health, mental retardation, or behavioral disorders must be overcome to effectively provide early intervention services that prohibit unnecessary and expensive incarceration or other inappropriate placements.

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Support cross-systems partnerships to make mental health screening and treatment available in non-traditional settings, for example, on site in school systems.

Improve access to dental care for special needs children

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Develop a list of providers

Substance-use during pregnancy is a problem behavior with long-term negative consequences. Teen pregnancy continues to be a problem behavior in Mobile

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Maintain and strengthen evidence-based efforts to reduce teen pregnancy in Mobile County, and establish support for expanding these efforts into un-served or underserved areas of the county
- Maintain and strengthen evidence-based efforts to reduce substance-use among pregnant or parenting teens, and establish support for expanding these efforts into un-served or underserved areas of the county

Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Attacking someone with the intent to harm is one of Mobile's top three priority youth problem behaviors

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Maintain, strengthen, and expand cross-systems partnerships designed to identify and refer high-risk students with suspensions for violence and other serious problem behaviors for case management and evidence-based behavioral interventions

Intervention: Attacking someone with the intent to harm is one of Mobile's top three priority youth problem behaviors

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Maintain, strengthen, expand accountability-based programs designed to reduce recidivism among juveniles who are referred by law enforcement personnel (juvenile court)

Education - Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

After-School Activities and Supervision

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Service providers maintain, strengthen, and expand after-school programming using evidence-based life skills models identified in the "Mobile Communities that Care" 2005-2010 Action Plan
- Service providers maintain, strengthen, and expand mentoring programming to reduce this risk
- Continue to work with the nonpublic schools participating in the Mobile CTC process to establish evidence-based life skills programming with the CTC priority population of 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in school-based settings.

Alternative Education

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Maintain, strengthen, or expand proven effective life skills programming with high-risk students attending alternative schools, such as but not limited to POINTE Academy, the Continuous Learning Center, and the C.I.T.Y. program

Early Care and Education - Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Child Care Subsidies for Low Income Parents

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Request legislative advocacy by the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs

Increase the use of evidence-based curricula in early care settings

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Work with providers to develop funding opportunities for training and curricula costs associated with best practice early care models identified in the Mobile "Communities that Care" 2005-2010 Action Plan, such as but not limited to High Scope, The Incredible Years, and Starting Early Starting Smart.

Parent Training and Support

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Encourage the use of evidence-based parent training, such as the HIPPPY program, Evenstart, and other evidence-based parent training models, as well as in-home family support workers

Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Transportation

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Carlton Malone, DYS representative to the Mobile Children's Policy Council, will join the Envision Mobile Transportation committee. Mr. Malone will share with Mobile Children's Policy Council feedback regarding transportation barriers with the Envision Mobile Transportation committee, as well as bring information back to the MCPC regarding the on-going work of Envision Mobiles Transportation committee

Parent Involvement

and Skills - Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Poor Family Discipline

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Service providers maintain, strengthen, and expand evidence-based parent training and parent education models recommended in the Mobile "Communities that Care" 2005-2010 Action Plan, such as but not limited to Parents Who Care, Positive Action, and CASA Start

Early Intervention: Poor Family Discipline

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Maintain, strengthen, and expand the use of evidence-based family therapy models recommended in the Mobile 2005-2010 "Communities that Care" Action Plan, such as but not limited to Brief Strategic Therapy.

- Support cross-systems partnerships to identify and refer high-risk students and their caregivers for proven effective family therapy. One example of such cross-systems collaboration is the District Attorney's "Helping Families Initiative," working with the Mobile Mental Health Center and Mobile County Public School System to identify high-risk youth through school suspension data and link them/their families with appropriate treatment modalities
- Support a focus on Mobile's "Communities that Care" (CTC) priority population 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students, when possible
- Link with in-state practitioners of the Parent Project to find out more about this promising approach

Lack of Local Programs for Juvenile Delinquents

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Support public/private partnerships to implement proven-effective family therapy interventions with this extremely high-risk justice-involved population

Policy Recommendation

1. State funding sources should require the use of evidence-based prevention/intervention models or award additional "points" for applications that use such proven effective models.
 - These same funding sources should designate training and curricula costs associated with best practice models as approved budget expenditures.
2. Support development of a cabinet-level, cross-systems partnership to design a standard of care for youth offenders with mental health disorders
3. Increase childcare subsidies for low-income families to access licensed childcare.

